* Quotes are an effective way of supporting your own ideas in an essay by making connections to the text.
* Quotes are usually set up in the following way:

**One:** An introduction to the quotation

**Two:** The quotation itself, with a reference

**Three:** An explanation of why/how the quote connects to your point/supports your argument

*Example:*

Throughout the play, characters repeatedly demonstrate various understandings of love. For instance, when Gratiano says, “love is blind and lovers cannot see the pretty follies that themselves commit” (2.4.41-42) he is explaining that when in love, people have a tendency to not notice how foolish they behave. This is important because…

* Some other methods:

**One: Using a Colon**

**Example:** Shylock argues the racist treatment of his character and defends himself: “Does a Jew not bleed” (3.1.140)?

**Two: Using “that”**

**Example:** Antonio’s friendship and devotion towards Bassanio is clear when he states that, “grieve not that I am fallen to this for you” (4.1.34).

* Effective verbs to link your own idea to quotes. These are called **SIGNAL PHRASES:**

adds claims illustrates reasons

admits comments implies says

agrees compares insists states

argues demonstrates notes suggests

asserts denies observes thinks

believes emphasizes points out wishes

* You can also make changes to quotes.
1. **Using Ellipses** – Ellipses (…) are used to make a longer quote shorter. You can cut out unnecessary parts and replace with ellipses as long as you do not change the original meaning of the quote.

Shylock is very clear in his reasons against racial prejudice: “Hath not a Jew eyes…If you prick us do we not bleed?” (3.1.140-145)

1. **Using Brackets** – Brackets [] can be used to add words to a quote to make it fit into your sentence (as long as it doesn’t change the meaning)
* Other Important Points:
1. **Do not overuse quotes. The essay is YOUR argument, not a collection of quotes**
2. **Do not use quotes to summarize the text. Assume your reader knows the story.**